

## Teleconference Summary

**October 28, 2013 (11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. PDT)**

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 a.m., October 28, 2013, by the Chair of the Delta Independent Science Board (ISB or the Board), Dr. Tracy Collier. One member of the Board was physically present at the teleconference location in Sacramento: Jay Lund. Seven members attended by phone: Brian Atwater, Elizabeth Canuel, Tracy Collier, Harindra (Joe) Fernando, Judy Meyer, Vince Resh, and John Wiens. Richard Norgaard was absent.

None of the Delta ISB members made any new disclosures.

Delta Science Program (DSP) Staff in attendance were: Peter Goodwin, Lauren Hastings, Marina Brand, Lindsay Correa, and Joanne Vinton.

### 2. Lead Scientist's Report

Goodwin reported that the Delta Stewardship Council (DSC) received and accepted the [Proposed Final Draft of the Delta Science Plan](#) (Plan). The Plan was completed six weeks ahead of the deadline. It does not incorporate all of the Board's comments in this version, but Goodwin wants to start implementing the Plan now rather than going through another revision, review progress at the end of 2014, and prepare an update by mid-2015. He added that he agreed with the Board's comments on modeling and alternative futures.

Board members said that they will be interested to see how well the agencies work together as a result of the Plan. They commented that funding is still unknown. Funding needs to come from many sources, including federal and state, and not be reliant on bonds. The Governor's budget, which is expected in early 2014, and the water bond are being discussed now.

The Plan calls for development of a Science Action Agenda (SAA). The first step will be the development of an interim SAA which could be completed by March 2014. The next version of the SAA could be a two to two-and-a-half-year effort and will require determination of the highest priority science questions. Members of the Science Steering Committee have not yet been identified but should represent science leaders across the disciplines. In addition, an appointment process will need to be established. Board members strongly encouraged the Delta Science Program (DSP) to seek endorsement of the Plan by agencies and attendant financial commitments.

Release of the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP) and Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement (EIR/S) was delayed by the federal shutdown. The expected release date is now December 13, 2013 with a 120-day comment period. The DSP has not yet set a date for the independent review of the BDCP Effects Analysis, but it will occur within the 120-day comment period. The DSC and ISB reviews of the BDCP EIR/S will be discussed at the joint DSC/ISB meeting in November. The DSC wants the Board's comments before the end of the 120-day comment period, so that the comments can be used by the DSC.

DSP hosted the Science Fellows Early Career Leadership Workshop on September 24-26, 2013. The purpose of the workshop is to give the Fellows the context for their research and to show them ways to communicate science. Phil Isenberg, DSC Chair, Goodwin, and Norgaard

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spoke at the workshop, followed by a panel of scientists from outside academia. The Fellows also went on a Delta field trip. Goodwin is hoping to fund a 2014 class of fellows but at this time, DSP has no funds to do so. It is hoped that other agencies will come forward with the necessary funding. California Sea Grant tracks where fellows go after the end of their fellowship.

### **3. Delta ISB Chair's Report**

Collier chaired a panel, "[Evaluating Stressors in the San Francisco Estuary using Biomarkers](#)," which was held on October 24-25, 2013, at U.C. Davis.

### **4. Discuss further written response to the Proposed Final Draft Delta Science Plan (Action Item)**

The Board discussed two versions (longer and shorter) of their comments on the Plan. All preferred the shorter version, but recommended revisions, such as making it more formal and stronger in asking for active engagement from agencies. The Board approved the comments with revisions. Wiens, Atwater, Meyer, and Lund edited the [final version](#). The memo commends the DSP for preparing the Plan and urges prompt action on the Plan's priorities by the DSP, DSC, other state and federal agencies, and nonprofit organizations.

Goodwin said that the next step for the Plan is to begin implementation of the actions identified as "immediate" in the Plan. Updating *The State of Bay Delta Science* has already been initiated.

### **5. Discuss and approve an update to the Delta ISB Operating Guidelines to clarify the terms of office (Action Item)**

The Board approved an update to the [Delta ISB Operating Guidelines](#) to clarify the term of office. The Operating Guidelines now state that when a member resigns prior to the end of the five-year term of office, the term of office for the new member who fills the vacancy is five years from the date of the new member's appointment.

Goodwin hopes to fill the current vacancy on the Board by January 1, 2014. Collier provided clarity about the 5-year terms in that there is no expectation of a 10-year term. There is only the potential for re-appointment of a member for another 5-year term by the Council.

### **6. Public Comment (For matters that were not on the agenda, but within subject matter jurisdiction of the Delta ISB.)**

None.

### **Prepare for the next Delta ISB meeting**

The next ISB meeting will be November 21-22. The first day will be a joint session with the DSC. Topics covered will include the DSC and ISB reviews of the draft BDCP EIR/S and oversight of habitat restoration. Wiens suggested that the members re-read the Board's report on habitat restoration as preparation for this agenda item. Collier suggested that joint meetings be planned once or twice per year.

**12:29 p.m. – Adjourned**